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Kernan Announces Grants to Train 256 Workers at Three Southeast Indiana Companies

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that three southeast Indiana companies would receive training grants valued at \$92,975 from the Indiana Department of Commerce Skills Enhancement Fund to train or retrain 256 Indiana workers.

“We’re pleased that these Indiana companies are making investments that will improve their competitiveness, as well as enhance the skills of their employees,” said Kernan, who leads the state’s economic development efforts. “Partnering with companies like these as they invest in equipment, technology and their workforce helps ensure their future success, which creates a better economic future for our state, too.”

- **Colgate Palmolive Co.**, Clarksville, has been awarded a \$66,300 grant to retrain 204 incumbent employees as part of a \$20 million investment to upgrade equipment. The company began in 1806 as a starch, soap and candle business in Milwaukee and in 1953 it became the Colgate-Palmolive Co., which manufactures, markets and sells consumer products. The Clarksville site manufactures toothpaste, shaving cream, cleanser and glycerin. Colgate-Palmolive will use the grant to provide employee education in maintenance and computer skills, forklift training, team building, statistical process control, time-quality management techniques and other quality processes.
- **Mid-Park, Inc.**, Jeffersonville, received a \$24,400 grant to train 45 new employees following the company’s \$2 million investment towards the purchase of land, plus building and equipment upgrades. Mid-Park produces aluminum and steel overhead sign structures and cantilevers. The company manufactures agriculture hardware fittings and stampings, as well as concrete paving accessories and roadside safety products. Mid-Park will use the Commerce grant to train employees in forklift, welding, computer animated design (CAD) skills as well as a variety of quality control processes.

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- **Weatherall Indiana, Inc.**, New Albany, was the recipient of a \$2,275 grant to train employees in three new and four existing positions following the company's investment of \$2.38 million to improve its buildings and equipment. Organized in 1982, the company manufactures a chinking for log homes that adheres to water-based stains. Weatherall developed the first synthetic stucco system that could be applied to the substrate. The company will renovate its facility and grounds, and purchase equipment. In addition, it will provide employee training in forklift operation, heating system operations, shipping and receiving procedures, maintenance, on-the-job-training techniques and quality control procedures.

The Commerce Department awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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